

REMARKS

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of Claims 1, 3, 4, 14, 15, 18, 19, and 21-28.

Claim Rejections – 35USC § 103

Reconsideration is respectfully requested for Claim 10, said claim having been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,626,238 to Hooper in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,478,087 to Allen. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that as per amended Claim 10, neither Hooper nor Allen, alone nor in combination, teach, disclose nor even suggest at least two vertically adjacent sensors on different vertical locations which both sense the tubular feature and the movement of it. Allen describes not just locating a feature but using sensors to provide a profile or shape of the detected device. Hooper describes merely vertically locating a feature. But, neither Allen nor Hooper are concerned with horizontal positioning. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection, of Claim 10, be withdrawn and a favorable condition of such claim is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested for Claims 13 and 17, said claims having been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,478,087 to Allen in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,626,238 to Hooper. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Office Action states that the Allen insertable oil field assembly has a first reflecting surface because any portion of the surface is reflective. Applicants respectfully submit that Allen requires a plurality of sensors to determine the profile (i.e. shape) of the assembly as it is lowered through the instrumented flange. Therefore, Allen recites transmitting information which is similar to a picture to determine which part of the tool is located within the instrumented flange. Therefore, Allen must rely on the entire surface of the insertable assembly to be reflective. Further, Allen does not teach, disclose, nor even suggest that the tubular be gripped when the insertable assembly is in the proper position.

In sharp contrast, the Applicants' device determines the position of an end of the insertable tool in relationship to the end of the tubular into which it is being inserted. Thus, the Applicants' reflective surface is disposed specifically at a pre-determined position. Further, as per amended Claim 13, it is clear that the Applicants' sensor is lowered substantially in tandem with the insertable assembly. Therefore, the Applicants' sensors are always detecting the

reflected surface until it is obscured. Thus, the Applicants' device is positioned correctly when the reflected surface is no longer detected (i.e. the reflected surface has entered the tubular). Further, as per amended Claim 13, it is clear that when the Applicants' insertable assembly is properly positioned, the elevator will grip the tubular. Neither Allen nor Hooper, alone nor in combination teach that a proper position has been reached when the sensors no longer detect a reflective surface. The descriptions of both Allen and Hooper rely on determining position only when the particular feature is sensed. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 13, and Claim 17, which depends from Claim 13 now stand in formal condition for allowance.

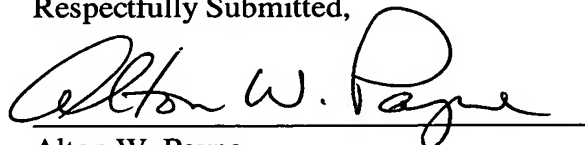
Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,478,087 to Allen in view of U.S. Patent No.6,626,238 to Hooper and further in view of U.S. Patent No.6,073,699 to Hollingsworth, Jr. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claim 16 depends from Claim 13 and is thereby submitted to be patentable for the reasons set forth above. Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 16 now stands in formal condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In light of the above amendments and discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the application now stands in condition for allowance and courteously request that this application be advanced to issue. The Applicants are of the opinion that no additional fees are required with the submission of this response. However, if additional fees are required, the Commissioner is hereby respectfully authorized to deduct such fees from Deposit Account Number 13-2166. The Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicants' representative, Alton W. Payne, at 713-355-4200, to discuss any matters, that may arise, where such discussion may resolve such matters and place this application in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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